

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A rubber composition comprising 100 parts by mass of a diene polymer and 20-250 parts by mass of a carbon black as a filler, characterized in that the carbon black has a dibutylphthalate (DBP) absorption number of 40-180 cm³/100 g, a nitrogen adsorption specific surface area (N₂SA) of 40-300 m²/g, a tint strength (TINT) of 50-150%, ~~and~~ a light transmittance of toluene extract of not less than 90% and a hydrogen emitting ratio at 2000°C of not less than 0.18% and a relation between the nitrogen adsorption specific surface area and the light transmittance of toluene extract satisfies the following equation (III):

$$\cancel{0.0283 \times A \times (100-B)} \leq \cancel{40} \dots\dots (I)$$

$$\underline{0.0283 \times A \times (100-B) \leq 20} \quad (II)$$

(wherein A is a nitrogen adsorption specific surface area and B is a light transmittance of toluene extract).

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) A rubber composition according to claim-~~2~~1, wherein the relation between the nitrogen adsorption specific surface area and the light transmittance of toluene extract satisfies the following equation (III):

$$0.0283 \times A \times (100-B) \leq 8 \dots\dots (III)$$

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(wherein A and B are the same as mentioned above).

4. (Original) A rubber composition according to claim 1, wherein the carbon black has a maximum ultraviolet (UV) absorbance at 330-340 nm of not more than 0.020 and a maximum ultraviolet (UV) absorbance at 260-280 nm of not more than 0.020.

5. (Original) A rubber composition according to claim 1, wherein the carbon black has a weight reduction ratio at 400-530°C of not more than 0.20%.

6. (Original) A rubber composition according to claim 1, wherein the carbon black has an extraction ratio with dichloromethane of not more than 0.12%.

7-8. (Cancelled).

9. (Original) A rubber composition according to claim 1, wherein the carbon black has a hydrogen emitting ratio of not less than 0.23%.

10. (Previously Presented) A tire characterized by using a rubber composition as claimed in claim 1 in a tread.

11. (Cancelled).

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12. (Previously Presented) A tire characterized by using a rubber composition as claimed in claim 3 in a tread.

13. (Previously Presented) A tire characterized by using a rubber composition as claimed in claim 4 in a tread.

14. (Previously Presented) A tire characterized by using a rubber composition as claimed in claim 5 in a tread.

15. (Previously Presented) A tire characterized by using a rubber composition as claimed in claim 6 in a tread.

16-17. (Cancelled).

18. (Previously Presented) A tire characterized by using a rubber composition as claimed in claim 9 in a tread.